Standard Procurement System (SPS)
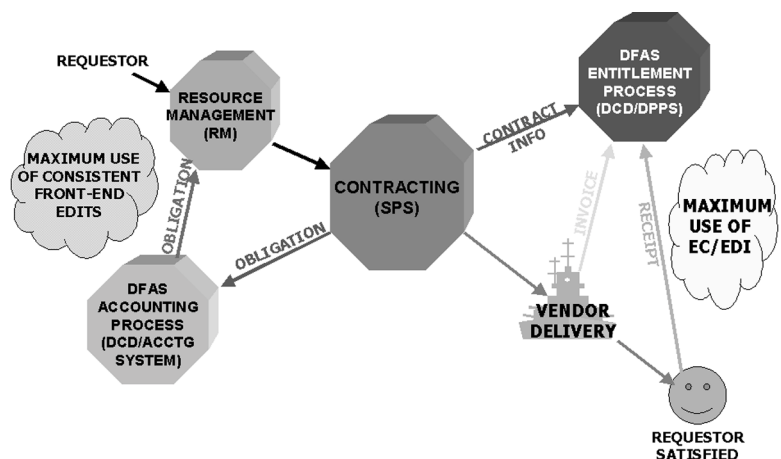
T he Standard Procurement System (SPS) is designed to improve the speed and effectiveness of contract placement and contract administration functions. Once completed, it will interact more effectively with other DoD activities and with industry, and improve visibility of contract deliverables while maintaining DoD readiness with reduced resources. SPS comprises components at multiple levels, including mainframe processing at Defense Information Systems Agency MegaCenters, minicomputers at the intermediate level, and Local Area Network-based workstations at the user level. Software consists of selected operating systems, network operating systems, client-server software, distributed systems software, and American Management Systems' commercial derivative software.

The SPS acquisition strategy is based on procuring and enhancing American Management Systems' "Procurement Desktop–Defense" software. To be delivered in four increments, SPS Increments 1 and 2 were operationally tested in 1997 and fielded to limited Defense Logistics Agency and Navy sites.

During the summer of 1998, Joint Interoperability Test Command (the designated Operational Test Agency), conducted tests at two Army sites and two Navy sites on a portion of the Increment 3 (Version 4.0) software functionality. Based on the user-validated requirements in the Operational Requirements Document, Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) found that Version 4.0 software was operationally effective and suitable for only a small number of contracting offices that had no (or minimal) prior automated procurement support. Due to the significant number of system deficiencies and inaccuracies, DOT&E determined that Version 4.0 software was neither operationally effective, nor operationally suitable for administering large procurement contracts. DOT&E recommended that the Program Management Office take immediate actions to correct these deficiencies prior to full fielding.

Since the completion of Version 4.0 Operational Test and Evaluation, testing activities had been focused on conducting Operational Assessments (OAs) on Version 4.1 and follow-on maintenance releases to verify correction of deficiencies and to assess enhanced capabilities. Throughout FY00 and FY01, JITC continued to conduct OAs to provide feedback to improve SPS performance. JITC uses sites that had already converted over to SPS from their legacy systems. The OA results showed that there were still many unresolved system deficiencies of major operational impact, even though users noted that system functionality had improved in comparison with the previous versions.

In January 2002, the DoD Deputy Chief Information Officer directed that SPS cease further development of Version 5.0 and limit its development efforts to SPS Version 4.2 and maintenance of prior versions, due to schedule breach (and possibly cost breach) and other reasons.

The Standard Procurement System will improve the speed and effectiveness of contract placement and contract administration functions.

TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

During the past year, there have been no operational test activities.

TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

Based on earlier Operational Test and OA findings, a variety of operational issues remain; some span many sites and some are site-unique. In general, users expressed a desire for longstanding deficiencies to be corrected as soon as possible. The SPS Program Management Office must continue to focus on correcting deficiencies identified during the previous tests.